

CFR 1216.305(d)

(d) NASA actions categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare either an environmental assessment or an EIS (§1508.4 of the CEQ Regulations) fit the following criteria: They are each sub-elements of an approved broadbased level-of-effort NASA science and technology program (basic research, applied research, development of technology, ongoing mission operations), facility program, or institutional program; and they are each managed relatively independently of other related sub-elements by means of separate task orders, Research and Technology Operating Plans, etc. Specific NASA actions fitting these criteria and thus categorically excluded from the requirements for environmental assessments and environmental impact statements are:

- (1) R&D (or SFCDC) activities in space science (e.g., Physics and Astronomy Research and Analysis, Planetary Exploration Mission Operations and Data Analysis) other than specific spacecraft development and flight projects.
- (2) R&D activities in space and terrestrial applications (e.g., Resource Observations Applied Research and Data Analysis, Technology Utilization) other than specific spacecraft development and flight projects.
- (3) R&D activities in aeronautics and space technology and energy technology applications (e.g., Research and Technology Base, Systems Technology Programs) other than experimental projects.
- (4) R&D (or SFCDC) activities in space transportation systems engineering and scientific and technical support operations, routine transportation operations, and advanced studies.
- (5) R&D (or SFCDC) activities in space tracking and data systems.
- (6) Facility planning and design (funding).
- (7) Minor construction of new facilities including rehabilitation, modification, and repair.
- (8) Continuing operations of a NASA installation at a level of effort, or altered operations, provided the alterations induce only social and/or economic effects but no natural or physical environmental effects